WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A modular load-bearing system to be worn by security and combat personnel, comprising a base surface provided with a plurality of sleeve means and a plurality of pouches, each of said pouches having a major flange-like extension attached at one of its ends to a back surface of said pouch, said extension being sized to be inserted through one of said sleeves and to be retained therein by releasable interacting fastening means provided on a surface associated with said base surface and on said pouch.
- 2. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said base surface is an outer surface of a garment.
- 3. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said sleeves are formed from a plurality of panels, each of said panels being attached to said base surface along two spaced-apart lateral edges.
- 4. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said interacting fastening means is of the hook-in-piles Velcro™-type.
- 5. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said pouches are of varying dimensions.
- 6. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said releasable interacting fastening means are provided on an extension of said sleeve.
- 7. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said releasable interacting fastening means are provided directly on said base surface.

- 8. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said back surface of said pouch and an outer face of said sleeve are provided with interacting fastening means for removable interconnection thereof.
- 9. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said pouch is further provided with a minor flange-like extension attached to an end of said back surface of said pouch opposite the end supporting said major flange-like extension, said major flange-like extension protruding beyond said sleeve, interacting fastening means being provided for connecting said minor flange-like extension with a protruding portion of said major flange-like extension.
- 10. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 9, further provided with an openable flap depending from said base surface and when closed arranged to cover said minor flange-like extension, said flap and said minor flange-like extension being provided with interacting fastening means for interconnection when said flap is closed.